

**BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE**  
**AIBC, APEGBC, BOABC, POABC**

**File No: 98-0126**

**INTERPRETATION**

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Interpretation Date: March 15, 2005

Building Code Edition: BC Building Code 1998

Subject: Circuit vent serving floor drains

Keywords: Circuit vent, emergency floor drains

Building Code Reference(s): 7.5.1.1.(3)(a)(b)(c), 7.5.3.1.(3)(b), Table 7.4.9.3., Definitions 1.1.3.2.

**Question:**

Clause 7.5.3.1.(3)(b) states additional relief vents shall be required "so that there are not more than eight circuit vented fixtures connected to the branch or building drain between vent pipe connections".

Do unvented emergency floor drains count toward this maximum of eight circuit vented fixtures since there is no load from these unvented fixtures?

**Interpretation:**

No.

Emergency floor drains 3 inch and larger conforming to Clauses 7.5.1.1.(3)(a)(b)(c) and consistent with the *emergency floor drain* definition are not counted due to being exempt from a drainage load and a venting load.

The fixture count between the relief vent and the circuit vent is maximum eight **circuit vented fixtures**.

Where a 3 inch floor drain complies with Clauses 7.5.1.1.(3)(a)(b)(c) also qualifies as an *emergency floor drain* by definition, such drains would not be counted since Table 7.4.9.3. indicates no drainage load and a venting load is also not applicable.

Although *emergency floor drains* with a 2 inch trap do not have a drainage load they do carry a vent load and must be vented. Therefore, such drains must be included in the vent load on the circuit vent and counted with the circuit vented fixtures between vents.

  
R. J. Light, Committee Chair

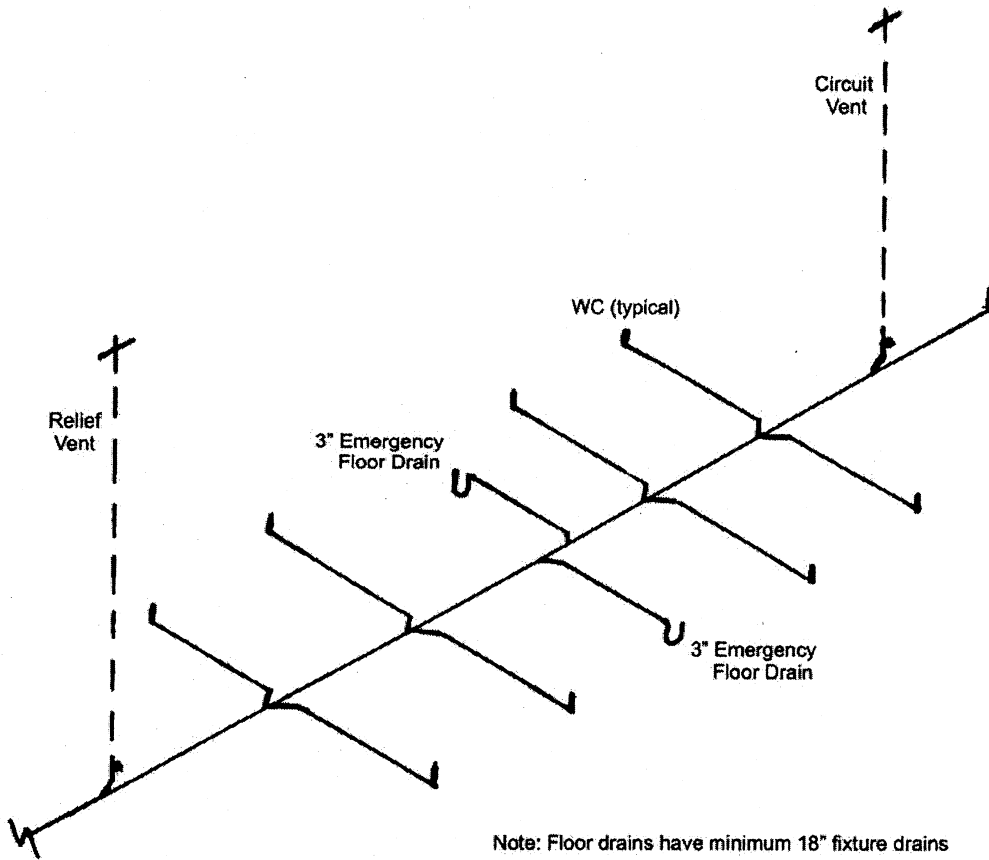
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